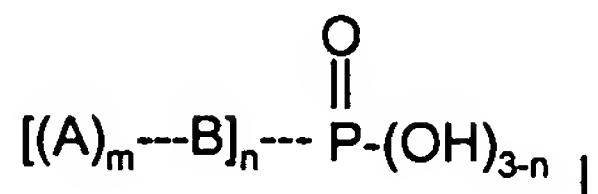


In the claims:

1. (original) A phosphoric acid ester and salts thereof of the general formula I,



wherein

**A** is a monohydroxyl residue derived from

$C_1-C_{20}$ -alkyl-(AO)x-OH or Acyl-(AO)x-OH; or

$C_1-C_{20}$ -alkyl -(AO)x-(HA)y-OH or Acyl-(AO)x-(HA)y-OH; or

$C_1-C_{20}$ -alkyl -(AO)x-(AA-AO)y-OH or Acyl-(AO)x-(AA-AO)y-OH; or

MO -(HA)y-OH or MO-(AA-AO)y-OH; wherein

Acyl is an aromatic carboxylic acid residue or a saturated or unsaturated fatty acid residue;

AO is a poly $C_2-C_4$ alkyleneglycol residue,

HA is a hydroxycarboxylic acid or a lactone thereof,

AA is a dicarboxylic acid,

MO is a monoalcohol,

x is 1 to 250,

y is 1 to 250,

**B** is a mono-, di-, tri- or polyhydroxy di-, tri- or multi-carboxylic acid residue which is linked via the hydroxy group to the phosphoric acid and via one of the carboxylic acid groups to the monohydroxyl residue [A], the remaining carboxylic acid group(s) is/are free or is/are esterified with a further monohydroxyl residue [A], resulting in branched esters;

n is 1-2;

m is 1-4.

2. (currently amended) A phosphoric acid ester according to claim 1, wherein B has at least one free carboxylic acid group and a non- branching center.

3. (original) A phosphoric acid ester according to claim 1, wherein the free carboxylic acid group(s) of B is/are fully esterified.

4. (original) A phosphoric acid ester according to claim 1, wherein B has at least one free carboxylic acid group and at least one free carboxylic acid group is esterified.

5. (currently amended) A phosphoric acid ester according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein B is malic acid or citric acid.

6. (currently amended) A phosphoric acid ester according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein

Acyl is a saturated or unsaturated fatty acid residue;

AO is a polyC<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>alkyleneglycol residue;

HA is  $\epsilon$ -caprolactone or  $\delta$ -valerolactone;

AA is a dicarboxylic acid;

MO is a monoalcohol having 4 to 30 carbon atoms ~~[[is]]~~ in the alkyl chain,

x is 2 to 50,

y is 2 to 50.

7. (currently amended) A mixture of a phosphoric acid ester according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1 with a phosphoric acid ester of polyC<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkylene glycolmonoethers in ~~[[wt]]~~ weight ratio of 0.01 to 99.99; ~~preferably 10 to 90, more preferably 50 to 50.~~

8. (currently amended) ~~The use of~~ A dispersant comprising a phosphoric acid ester of the formula I or salts thereof according to claim 1, ~~any one of claims 1 to 6 or of a mixture according to claim 7 as dispersant.~~

9. (currently amended) ~~The use of~~ A sheet moulding compound (SMC) system or bulk moulding compound (BMC) system comprising a phosphoric acid ester of the formula I or salts thereof ~~according to claim 1, in the production of sheet moulding compounds (SMC) or bulk moulding compounds (BMC).~~

10. (currently amended) ~~The use of A water- or solvent-based coating or printing ink comprising a phosphoric acid ester of the formula I or salts thereof according to claim 1 in the production of water- and solvent-based coatings and printing inks.~~

11. (new) A mixture of a phosphoric acid esters according claim 7, wherein the weight ratio of phosphoric acid ester of formula 1 according to claim 1 to a phosphoric acid ester of polyC<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkylene glycolmonoethers is 10 to 90.

12. (new) A mixture of a phosphoric acid esters according claim 7, wherein the weight ratio of phosphoric acid ester of formula 1 according to claim 1 to a phosphoric acid ester of polyC<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkylene glycolmonoethers is 50 to 50.

13. (new) A dispersant comprising a mixture according to claim 7.